

Iran: Attacks on Afghan Refugees

Iranians in the Tehran area attacked [3 words illeg] separate incidents last week according [words illeg] interior Minister on national television [words illeg] incidents on Afghan agents of the US and the USSR [illeg] want to fan communal tensions in Iran and discourage [illeg] support for the Islamic Afghan resistance. [word excised]

Comment These incidents reflect [words illeg] Iranians, especially the poor who resent the regimes support for the 1.5 million Afghan refugees in Iran. Refugees fill jobs, occupy housing and receive welfare benefits that might otherwise go to hard-pressed Iranians, including the nearly 2 million internal refugees from the war with Iraq. Few Iranians will believe that the incidents were provoked by foreign meddling. Although more violence is likely, Tehran almost certainly will continue to support the refugees. [word excised]

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IRAN: Attacks on Afghan Refugees

Iranians in the Tehran area attacked Afghan refugees in three separate incidents last week. According to a statement by the Iranian Interior Minister on national television, the attacks targeted the incidents on Afghan agents of the US and the USSR. The minister said: "We want to fan communal tensions in Iran and to gain Iranian support for the Islamic Afghan resistance."

Comment: These incidents reflect the mistrust of many Iranians, especially the poor who resent the big money paid to the 1.5 million Afghan refugees in Iran. Refugees are paid, housed, and receive welfare benefits that might otherwise go to hard pressed Iranians, including the nearly 2 million internal refugees from the war with Iraq. Few Iranians will believe that the incidents were provoked by foreign meddling. Although more violence is likely, Tehran almost certainly will continue to support the refugees.

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